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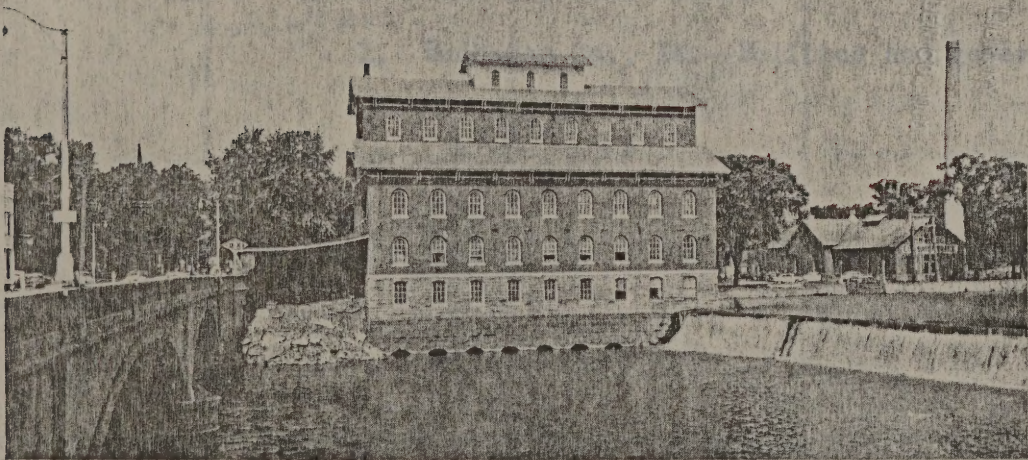
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W. H. H. H.

OCTOBER 12, 1963

Buchanan County Historical Tour

IOWA



THE OLD MILL, INDEPENDENCE, IOWA

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627 Buchanan County, Ia. Court House.

.B74.3 Open house, May 17, 1963. [Independence, Ia.]

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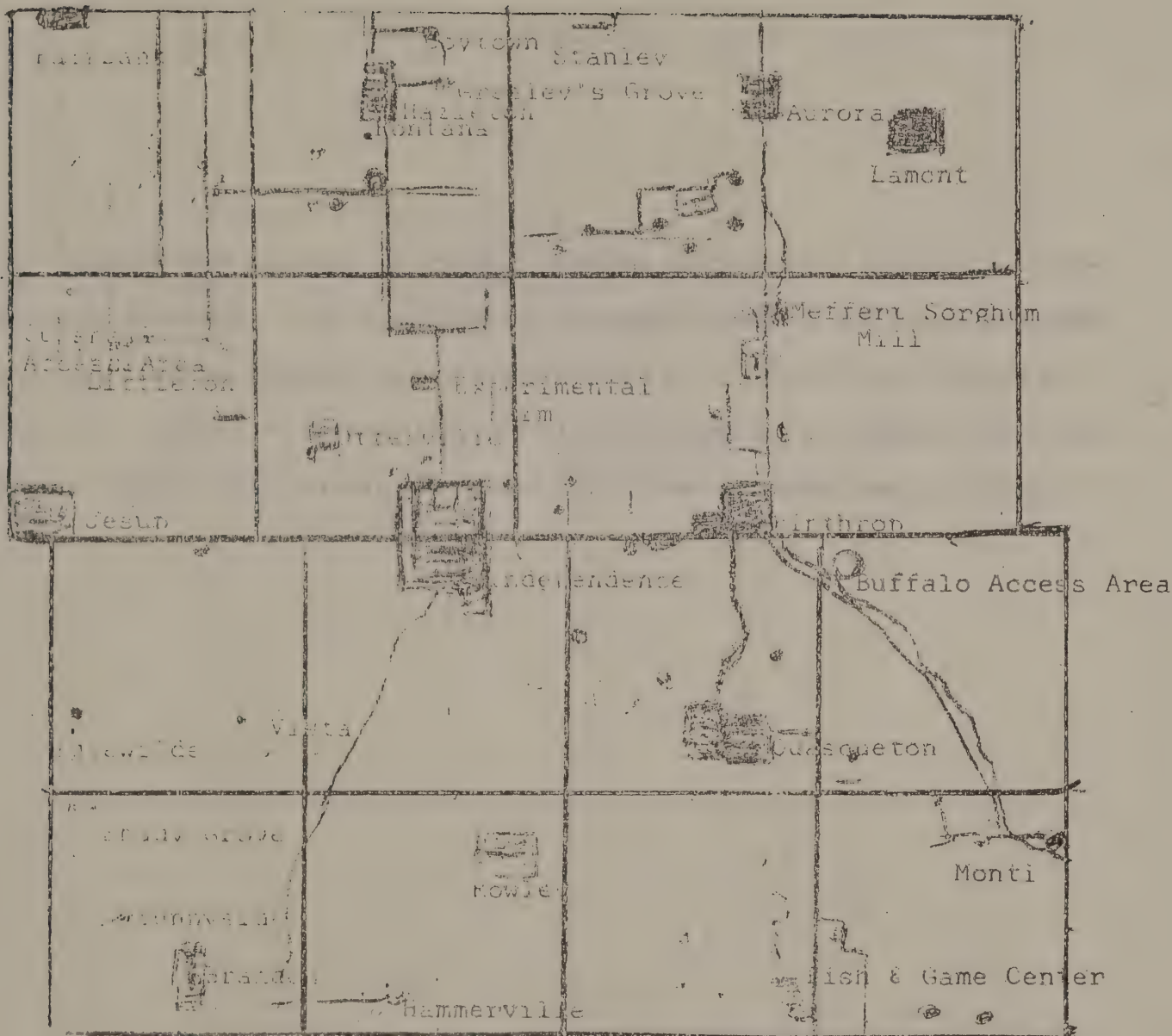
c.1, lists all records kept by County Recorder and by

note c.2/ Clerk of the District Court.

in same box

1. Buchanan Co., Ia.--Politics and government.

Rec'd May 15-1978



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Much of this material is original with the editors being supplied by their friend's knowledge. Some came from the Centennial Paper of the Bulletin Journal and some from the Buchanan County history books of "Purcivals" and "Church and Chapell." We wish to extend thanks to all who helped and to dedicate our efforts to the people of the present and future generations who glean any good from it.

The following table shows the results of the experiment. The first column shows the number of trials, the second column shows the number of correct responses, and the third column shows the percentage of correct responses.

Number of trials	Number of correct responses	Percentage of correct responses
10	8	80%
20	15	75%
30	22	73%
40	28	70%
50	35	70%

Buchanan Co, Historical Society
Tour
Oct. 12 - 1963

Committee Members

Regina Townsend
Vine Stoddard
Wm. Klotzbach
Myra Smith
Harry Circus
George Reed
Chas. Jakeway
Herman Van Laningham
Rose Brewer - Chairman

All frontiers were built on the same pattern. The early settlers chose to stay near the waterways. The early trails followed the rivers. This was for several reasons. The streams flowed generally in one direction as in Iowa it is southeast. By following a river an explorer always had water and a means of finding his way back. The trees offered shelter against the hot sun, the rain or cold winds, some protection from the Indians, and fuel for their fires. Therefore we find the early settler building his home along the larger rivers and using logs. The first settler chose the most likely spot for his purpose, usually a town site where a grist mill and saw mill would be a paying proposition. Water-power was needed for these, so a fall in the river was an easy place to build a dam. The expansions came up and down stream from this location. A ford in the river offered an excellent site for a hotel, a tavern and a store to serve others who would pass through. Often times these early arrivals sold out to late comers at a good profit to themselves and pushed onward to the new frontier to develop a new town site. Those who were interested in homes and families came to stay. They soon settled on the prairies away from the rivers, but still clung to the creeks at first, then to section lines. Many early abandoned homesteads were not on a road when the roads came through. What few log cabins remain in Buchanan County are located on creek and river banks and are hard to reach by automobile.

A school house was an early need. Those interested in education for their children built the schools and furnished the teachers. The element from New England was well-educated and demanded education for their children. Government was organized by those who knew the ropes. Buchanan County, a melting pot with people from Canada, New England, Pennsylvania, Eastern and Southern States, and large influxes from Ireland, Germany, Poland, and Denmark was so to speak moulded by the New Englanders, but retained a lot of the original traits of the others.

We are today no one people. True, the Irish of the Buffalo have merged some. Denmark, near Gatesville, holds only a few of our Danes. The "forks" was mostly German settlement and still is. Fairbank is considered an Irish town, but time has mellowed their distinctions. We no longer have the race riots and skirmishes that were often heard of fifty years ago. Our one big different people is our Amish. Mostly they are accepted but they do not intermarry.

Our rural schools are fast disappearing, bowing out to the new re-organizing districts. Gone is the dinner bucket and daily hike to and from school. School busses and hot lunches are the order. Reading and 'Riting and 'Lithmetic will not fill the bill for the Space Age. Time have always changed. Ours are no different. If we do not accept the changes as they come, we are left behind and have no identity in the future. Even if we cannot change, we must let our children do so. But we must not forget our past while building a future, or forget those brave souls who made use of what was here and built us a nation. We are but a grain of sand in these United States, but never the less, a part of it, and grain by grain we pile up to make a continent.

Buchanan County was named in honor of James Buchanan who at the time this county was materializing was a prominent United States Senator from Pennsylvania. He later became the fifteenth president of the United States. Indians once roved these beautiful fields and fished in these streams. They have left us a few legends and many names for rivers and towns.

The white mar.'s history starts back in 1842 when William Bennett moved into the Quasqueton area and established a home. Early maps show this as the only town in our county and it was called Trenton. These early comers have left a few marks on the face of our county. Some are stone heaps, some just cellar holes, others bridges, dam sites, or groves. Some are picturesque, others hideous, but they are our heritage. They are the signs of the struggle that made Buchanan County

what she is today. They are our battle scars, for our ancestors fought and died for our land just as surely as if they had gone to war. Many a name in our community can be traced to the early pioneers. Many have come since and as yet feel no kinship to the courage and heartaches of the past. Our 1963 tour will cover as many of the old land marks as possible and it is hoped we can kindle an interest to help us preserve a few of these spots that we might never forget the tragedies and the Glories of the Past, or forget to pay tribute to the people shaping the history today.

Our ancestor's allies were the woods and the streams--their main source of water, fuel, and building material. They planned and dreamed. Townsites so necessary in that day have fallen into decay. Stage roads were a life line or artery connecting the new world with the life sustaining old world. Let us follow some of these trails that lead back into the past.

In the olden days the hotel business was one of Buchanan County's main industries. Livery stables and hotels were everywhere to rest the weary travelers and their teams. Independence had her share which are listed below.

Gedney Hotel: built by C. W. Williams received its first guest August 21, 1892. Destroyed by fire, Fareway grocery & parking lot is now at the location of the Gedney Hotel.

St. James Hotel, The Empire House, on West Main Street, near Division Street, built in 1873. Merchants Hotel located where the Standard Service Station is at the corner of East Main & Highway 150 N.

Plinket Rooming House, built in 1856 East Main Street, corner of Main & Court Streets.

The Central House, known as the Fisher and later for many years as the Turner House, 1876.

The Chatham House, on North Chatham Street established in 1865 near the Illinois Central Depot known for many years as the Naylor House. After it was torn down the vacant lot was used by Hila Morgan Tent Shows and Carnivals. Now residence of Floyd Klotzbach.

The Globe Hotel later called the Hotel Thill, East Main Street, north side, rebuilt in 1879.

The Burlington House, West Main Street, near Rock Island Depot.

McCorstin Hotel (Hitchens), torn down last year.

One by one these hotels have succumbed to the automobile age. The livery barns and blacksmiths shops have given way to garages and filling stations and the hotels to motels. Independence today boasts one hotel, the Pinicon. Its last livery barns were converted into a Sale barn and a used furniture mart during the depression years. The only horses seen on our streets today are owned by the Amish and are provided for by a special parking lot.

Grist mills form a special link in the life line of the early settlers. They disappeared one by one. The Wapsipinicon Mill is the only one left in the county. Its superior structure has made it a building too useful to tear down and it is still good enough to use. It is used only for livestock feed grinding. All flour is imported from big mills in other states. Even breadmaking is more commercial than domestic. We are all familiar with our present day portable mills.

Saw mills, so prevalent in those days, come and go throughout the community. At present, one is located at the west edge of St. John's Cemetary in Independence. Logs are hauled in and lumber hauled out. Very little building is done with home sawed lumber.

A third type of mill was the Sorghum Mill. Mollasses was a staple for the pioneers as it took the place of sugar. Each season brought its treats and late summer or early fall brought the Sorghum. Sorghum and molasses kept good the year around. The new mollasses was a special treat for different reasons, mainly because it was fresh, secondly because they ran out or at least low so that they had none for a time or used what they had sparingly. Fresh molasses brought on a bustle of baking and preserving and thick slices of bread covered with molasses.

Our Amish neighbors have their own sorghum mills but the original ones of our Yankee neighbors have dwindled to one, "The Old Meffert" Mill now owned and operated by Glen Sweitzer. The remains of Harley Bright's sorghum mill is still on his farm but has not been used since he left the place.

Mail came sparingly to our pioneers. Those on the frontiers picked up the mail when ever anyone was in the frontier post office. Buchanan County first had to go to Dubuque. Whenever someone went for supplies they brought back mail for everybody. But it was better to have some one person responsible for the mail. Too often the wrong person could get valuable mail. Before long one man was delegated to bring mail to and from Quasqueton where a central post office was established. As the frontier pushed on, mail was brought for it and people called at Quasqueton for their mail. After Independence became established a stage road soon took shape and mail was brought on the stage. This soon extended clear to Fairbank with stops at Gatesville, Independence, Otterville, Littleton, and Kier inbetween. A list of most of the old time post offices and Ghost towns follows:

ATLANTA--was located in the southern part of Newton township. It had a post office from 1859 to 1873.

BUCHANAN--was located in the southeast quarter of section 24 in Buffalo township. It was a village on the Buffalo creek and was platted in 1857. The post office for Buchanan was named Buffalo Grove and was in existence from 1855 to 1885.

CANA--was located in the southeastern part of Cono township and had a post office from 1861 to 1863.

CASTLEVILLE--was located on the north line of section 36 and later on the west line of section 34 in Buffalo township. It had a post office from 1863 to 1897.

CHATHAM--was the post office of the town of Littleton from 1851 to 1881...discontinued at Littleton in 1910.

COYTOWN--was located in the northeastern part of Hazleton township. It was a hamlet and post office mentioned in William's History of Buchanan County as having been started in 1812.

ERIN--was located in the northeast corner of section 12 in Newton township. It had a post office from 1855 to 1863.

FRINK'S GROVE--was located in section 19 of Jefferson township. It had a post office from 1854 to 1861, when it was changed to Sunnyside.

GATESVILLE--was located in section 18 of Liberty township. It was a post office from 1889 to 1900.

GREE LEY'S GROVE--was located in section 11 of Hazleton township and was a post office from 1854 to 1857. It is often referred to as Old Hazleton. It was moved to the present site of Hazleton when the railroad came through and by-passed it by a mile.

HAMERVILLE--was located in section 33 of Homer township. It had a post office from 1897 to 1900.

IDLEWILDE--was a post office from 1889 to 1893 in the northeast corner of section 29 of Westburg township.

KIER--was located in section 22 of Fairbank township and was a post office from 1867 to 1900.

MIDDLEFIELD--was located in the southwestern part of Middlefield township. It had a post office from 1885 to 1900.

MUDVILLE--was the local name applied to Buchanan in the early days. It was platted and laid out by Abiathar Richardson in about 1857. There was a thriving business in this town before the construction of the railroad a few miles north. When this occurred, the town sunk to an ignominious death. The first frame house built in the township was in this village and was built by Abiathar Richardson. The town also boasted a store, a blacksmith shop, and a sawmill.

NEWTONVILLE--was located in section 18 of Newton township. It had a post office from 1871 to 1900.

PINE--was located in the northern part of Liberty township and had a post office from 1855 to 1859.

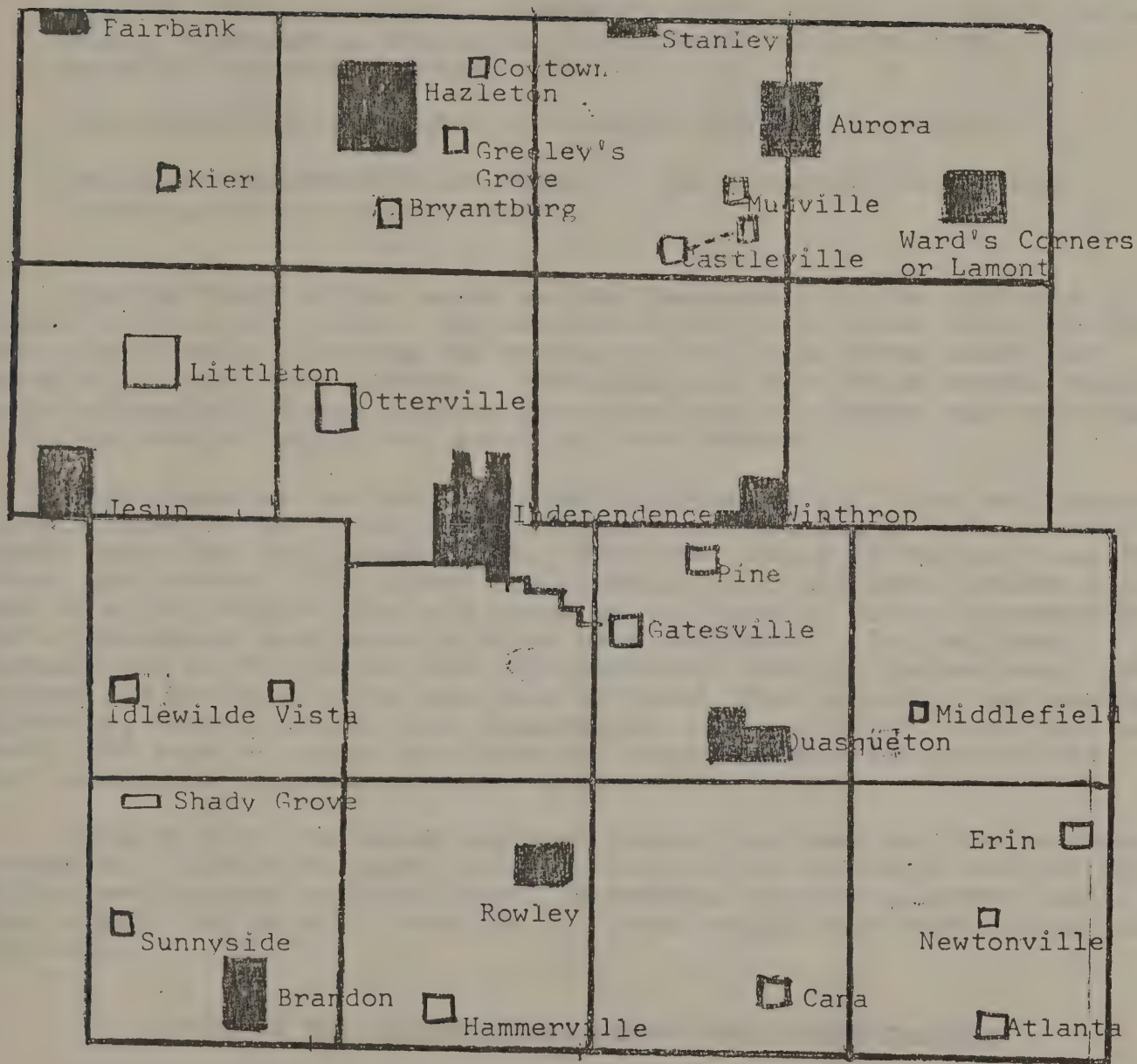
SUNNYSIDE--the former Frink's Grove of Jefferson township had a post office from 1861 to 1881. It is located three miles north of Brandon and is known as Shady Grove today.

VISTA--was located in section 26 of Westburg township. It had a post office from 1889 to 1903. There were a store, a church, and several dwellings.

WARD'S CORNERS--was the pioneer name of the present town of Lamont. It had a post office from 1863 to 1881 when the name was changed to Lamont.

BRYANT'SBURG--came into being as a flag station on the railroad. It became a post office in 1885 and continued until the 1920's when the automobile became practical for carrying the mail. At one time Bryant'sburg boasted a store, post office, blacksmith shop, a bank, a lumber yard and garage, a depot, and several dwellings. Also a church and a country schoolhouse.

OTTERVILLE--is located about three miles northwest of Independence near the junction of Otter creek and the Wapsipinicon River. It was platted in 1857. It boasted a sawmill, a grist mill, a wagon ship, a post office (opened in 1860 and discontinued in 1902), a



EARLY POSTOFFICES OF BUCHANAN COUNTY

store, a hotel, a blacksmith shop, a creamery, a schoolhouse and two churches. In 1772 the Union Grange No. 525 of Otterville conceived the idea of an annual fair, for the exhibit of livestock, cereals, and other farm products. It continued for many years. Otterville also has a cemetery.

PRAIRIE GROVE--was more a community than a town. It consisted of a school house and a creamery. It derived it's name from a tall grove of cottonwood trees.

PRAIRIE CENTER--consisted of a school house and a church.

The above information was found in the Bulletin Journal; and Conservative Centennial Paper.

When we think of the stage as the forerunner of the railroad it begins to make a picture. People looking for a new home rode the stage into the frontier sleeping and eating at the stage stops owned and operated by the Stage Company. Here also was kept fresh horses and one man could make a living running the stage stop. Another man could make a living hauling lumber and supplies from Dubuque.

Such towns as Castleville, Greel's Grove, Vista, Kier and Coytown were located on the stage route and had every reason to believe that they would grow into good sized towns. With the coming of the railroad the story was changed. The stage road running east and west between Dubuque and Waterloo followed the old route quite closely, but to accommodate more passengers more whistle stops were necessary. The railroad company put up the depots and the towns took care of themselves, Jesup Aurora and Hazleton being examples of towns that picked up and moved. Winthrop, Doris, Rowley, and Bryantsburg are samples of towns that were born, and many of these are dying out today because the automobile has chisled off a portion of the railroad business.

Thus we find the basic needs of people the same but the panorama changing. Airplanes, along with the autos, are squeezing out the need of so many hotels, and jet travel is erasing time on a larger scale. The ground that we will cover by bus today would have taken a week or two by team.

A FEW OF THE INTERESTING THINGS ABOUT INDEPENDENCE

The bank corners of yesteryear were on the other end of East Main Street. The first bank organized was razed by the fire of 1874 and went out of business. Later the Commercial Bank was built on the corner now occupied by the Main Diner and the Peoples National Bank, where the Federal Savings and Loan is now, on the South side of the street. These remained until they were closed by the Depression.

FIRST SANITARIUM--Mr. James Whait's house in the 2nd Ward. Dr. Buchanan residence in the 5th Ward. Dr. Shellito, after completing an elegant new residence in the 2nd ward. (Later the L. D. Stocking home and now the Rudy Leytze's home.) George Blamer residence--now the east section of the present Peoples Hospital. The house across from the Pinicon Hotel and St. Johns Church on corner converted to McClearnon Hospital.

KINGS OPERA HOUSE--East Main Street, 1876. Cost--\$9,500. Built by Charles King. Now is the A. H. Ward Hatchery.

GEDNEY OPERA HOUSE--seating capacity was 825. Opening of Mr. Williams new Opera House was on Tuesday evening, August 23, 1892. There were four boxes and and two loggia, parquet, a balcony and gallery. Rebuilt and is now the Maleck Theatre after the building burned.

HENRY OLIVER BOOK STORE 1894--Present book store.

SHERWOOD & STOCKINGS MEN'S CLOTHING--Jeanna's clothing

LIMBERT WHOLESALE CIGAR--Ongs Upholstery or next one to it.

CANADA GROCERY--1871--McGrane's Drug

CREAM STATION--Whites Cafe now.

Y. M. C. A. 1895--Munson Library Building

R. R. PLANE RESIDENCE--built in 1800 by Henry A. Hall 3rd Ave. S. E.

OLD HIGH SCHOOL--Washington School

WEBSTER SEED COMPANY--located across the street north of present Chatham Food market

ST. JOSEPHS CHURCH SITE and SCHOOL

ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH--was 107 years old in 1963

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH--built in 1856

OLD POST OFFICE--now part of the Maleck Theatre.

COLONIAL INN--was the stage coach stop

CIRCUS RING BARN--is where they trained circus animals. Nichols Garage

INDEPENDENCE ELECTRIC LIGHT COMPANY

INDEPENDENCE LEVEL TREAD POWER COMPANY

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH--1850; was the Methodist Episcopal

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH--1867; now American Legion Hall

GERMAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH--1858; now the Four Square Gospel

WAPSIPINICON MILL--1867; still original location.

H. E. PALMER WHOLESALE EGG DEALER--Independence Produce Building.

FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY--1874; above the Morse & Littell & B. W. Tabor Drug Store, now Dannenbrinks & Lanes Insurance.

RUSH PARK and the KITE-SHAPED TRACK

FAIRVIEW PARK--Wackerbaths Canning Factory Farm

HAWTHORNE SCHOOL SITE--site of future Presbyterian Church

LINCOLN SCHOOL SITE--Vacant at present

WEST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

JEFFERSON SCHOOL--Used to be Close's Field

SITE OF FUTURE NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL--Shrivers building site.

R. E. A. BUILDING

PINE CREST TRAILOR COURT

WARD POULTRY FARM

PATTONS LIME QUARRY

WILSON CEMETERY

OAKWOOD CEMETERY

MT. HOPE CEMETERY

INDEPENDENCE PRODUCE--ARMORY BUILDING

GATESVILLE

Gatesville was a pioneer town scattered along a half mile or so, and located two miles east and three miles south of Independence--half way between that town and Quasqueton. It was made up of the following buildings:

COUNTRY STORE--Some time in the 1890's a man by the name of Gates started a store in a small building adjacent to his house. It was the center of the neighborhood, and people visited it, especially in the evenings. Mr. Gates ran the store for a good many years, then moved to Independence. The store was kept going by various individuals. Soon a Post Office was established in the store, mail being brought to it three times a week. Farmers came to the store to pick up their mail.

STONE SCHOOL--there was a stone school building located nearby, which was used for a short while until a wooden school was built some 80 rods east. Later the school was moved some half mile or so south and was used until sold around 1940. It is now a residence in Independence.

CHURCH--A Congregational Church was started some 40 rods from the store. It was active for a good while, closed, and then reopened some forty years ago. It was later sold to a neighbor to be used as a residence, which soon burned.

BLACKSMITH SHOP--This shop was started just across the road from the church, and until the road was regraded twelve years ago the depression where it stood could be clearly seen, and the trees were grouped around it.

The church and schoolhouse were on land donated by one farm, the

shop on another, and the store on the Gates farm. The road has been regraded and changed, and the only visible signs left of the town is the foundation of the church.

Gatesville is one of the pioneer places of Buchanan County that has been erased and almost entirely disappeared from sight. It has completely changed in looks in the past decade. People can drive right past it now without realizing they have done so.

QUASQUETON

Our oldest town--The one with the most Firsts--First settler--first store--first mill--first trouble--first doctor--first death--first marriage--first bridge--first murder--first thieves--first school--first post office--first funeral. This town so quiet and peaceful today had more turmoil than any of our others at its start. Its story has more romance, more trouble, more thrills, more intrigue, and more tragedy than any other part of Buchanan County. Such tales as the brave young man killed by claim jumpers whose fiancée lost her mind, the brave little boy who reconnoitered the scene of the crime alone, and the Lone Elk, who evaded Indians and white men and was finally shot by the "Wild Girl"--a girl who masqueraded as her husband's daughter, who could out talk, outride, and outshoot any one on the frontier, whose parents were of noble descent and owned the best library in all Canada. This girl read such books as the classics afforded those days, but had no name and no scruples. She and her husband conspired to get the upperhand in Quasqueton and when the mill hands and owner took the law in their own hands and flogged him, telling him to leave the settlement, she rode clear to Dubuque on horseback and persuaded the court to send a posse after the offenders. They tried later to gain the mill rights by subterfuge and when that was out--witted she put a curse on her enemies and the town such as was never heard before. Strangely, it was heard by the one it was meant for and broke his spirit. Quasqueton's failure to grow and become the county seat as was dreamed for it is sometimes attributed to this curse. The mill never succeeded; the railroad failed to materialize; and Independence became the county seat.

There are stories of the Big Blizzard, the cold summer and the hardships of the settlers mingled with their desire and ability to help each other. This town's earliest romance settles around, not white men, but Indians. The glorious story of Wapsi and Pinicon. Quasqueton has remembered her war heroes with a monument and boasts eighty soldier's graves in her cemetery. Her first school house still stands, having been converted to a residence. Most of Quasqueton is still the same but she boasts a modern bridge, a lovely park, "Cedar Rock", a W. P. A., restored dam, fishing fit for a king, and an occasional thrilling sight when the Boy Scouts make their annual canoe trip down the Wapsi and come gliding into view around the bend. This location was an early ford across the Wapsi, used by Indians and wild animals long before the White Man found it.

CEDAR ROCK

Cedar Rock--Though not in Quasqueton, it is near by, and is the historic spot where the Indian lovers leaped to their deaths rather than go back to their separate tribes. It is owned by Lowell E. Walters, who had Frank Lloyd Wright design a house for that particular setting. It is the only Frank Lloyd Wright designed house in the county.

ROWLEY

This is where Roland Shaffer lives and they might be able to show a huge white rock that was supposed to be used as a tombstone, but because of family trouble in the blood family the stone is still there. Mrs. Shaffer can tell you more.

Cemetery

Highway

To Quasqueton

X
Raymond Hare's house, used to be 1/2 of an old schoolhouse that was a high school about 80 years ago. Just drive by.

Where the Hare school was located.



Methodist Church

One of the oldest houses, inside was made of old cracker boxes.



First home in Rowley, Orville Sanford's



Old Presl. Church, now Masonic Hall.



Only building to survive Kroh Rowley fires.



Presbyterian Church



Catholic Church

At this farm might be the oldest one room school house in the county. It is now a hoghouse and is on the Ray Rasmussen farm. They might point it out to you.



Grass Alley

The other half of that school. Just look from the road when



COUNTY HOME--A home for the indigent--Northeast of Independence.

DORIS

Doris, a flag station on the Illinois Central Railroad, was named for the daughter of the president of the line. It is more of a name than a town.

BETHEL

Bethel was the name given to the church and school that stood together east of Independence. The school has sent their pupils to Independence, and the church has disintegrated, the building being sold off. This was a Church of God or Winnbrenner Church.

ON HIGHWAY 20 AND ON THE BANK OF PINE CREEK

The present home of Claude Catt is the old stage coach inn. Highway 20 was the stage road between Dubuque and Independence. The stage company built the inns and hired someone to run them. This inn housed a post office, a kitchen, and had four bedrooms for travelers, one big dining and reception room, and one large bedroom for the host and his family.

A Presbyterian Church stood just west of the inn and a number of dwellings were east at the present Singer Crossings. This community was known as Pine. The burial grounds were north of the intersection and west of the road. It was necessary to put a crook in the road to miss the graves.

LITTLETON

Littleton--formerly known as Chatham--is one of Buchanan County's oldest towns. Chatham was the post office of Littleton from 1851 until 1881, after which it was Littleton, but the post office was discontinued in 1910 and mail today is delivered in the town by routes from both Jesup and Independence. It is touched on the north by the Fairbank route.

Littleton came into being as a mill site. A dam at the site of the present dam that was built during depression years by CWA furnished power for the mill that served the community for many years. The old mill was torn down during the 1920's. The town boasted several stores, a hotel, a bridge over the Wapsi, a blacksmith shop, two churches, a school (Pleasant Grove Seminary), a cemetery, a saw and grist mill, and a number of dwellings. It was an up and coming community leading in new farm machinery and grain raising. A railroad, the same railroad that was to come through Quasqueton, Independence, and Otterville, was surveyed through Littleton and the grade built all the way to Fairbank. The failure of the railroad spelled doom for the town which nearly disappeared until the restoration of the dam. It has since become alive with cabin dwellers who love boating and fishing. The settlement west of the river is called Johnsonville because the owner of the land, a retired street car conductor from Chicago, a Mr. Lewis Johnson, conceived the idea of utilizing discarded box cars to make into retirement and vacation cabins along the river. The town sends its school children to Jesup now and finds it hard to support one church. The old Lutheran Cemetery is Northwest of Littleton. The new bridge and highway over the Wapsi are also northwest of Littleton. There is a new

recreation area west of the new highway.

Going north out of Littleton, one comes across several homes of early settlers, the Stevenson place, once in Perry Township and later in Fairbank township, was the first settlement of Fairbank Township. It was the birthplace of the late Dr. Stevenson, well known physician of Waterloo. Farther north is the birthplace of a long time State Superintendent of Schools, Mae Francis. This farm with its old time brick house up until a few years ago had the old time tread mill, and it was the duty of the family dog to pump water with it. Back in the field from the Francis place is the site of an old stone house and the foundations of barns, etc., and the ruins of old wells. This is the original home of John Wroten and his wife, Nancy Cameron Wroten. Three generations of Wrotens lived here, but because it was off the road so far it lost its appeal as a home and became a grazing ground for beef cattle.

The next well known land mark is Triumph School. Pioneer school and local meeting place for community entertainment. Farther north is the old site of Kier, a farm house that had a post office from 1867-1900. There is the remains of an old cemetery south and a little west of the Kier post office. There is still one grave of a Civil War Veteran there. One present day Amish Cemetery is located on the Minton Farm.

FAIRBANK

Fairbank started as the location of a sawmill, erected by C. W. Bacon and F. J. Everett, who came in 1853. In 1860 Everett opened a store. The post office was established in 1854 by C. W. Bacon. A cemetery was established in 1856, another at Kier at about the same time. The Grist mill was established in 1855 by Naylor and Harrington and later became the property of Minkler and Nichols.

Fairbank was platted as a town in 1854. John McCuniff opened a store in 1855 and a distillery in 1856 (which he discontinued three or four years later.).

Some interesting places: Baptist Church, Methodist Church, Lutheran Church, Catholic Church--built of Native stone, two garges, chain stores, old mill site and dam, Island Park--once the strong hold of the Ku Klux Klan. This town was settled by strong clans of Irish, Poles, and German.

It has two cemeteries; It is on the Chicago Greatwestern Railroad and the blacktop highway between Oelwein and Waterloo. The river running through it is the Little Wapsi. It has many fine fishing holes in it.

RIVERS

The Wapsipinicon River is the largest in the county and runs from Northwest to Southeast across the county. It got its name from the Indians, the legend being about two lovers of opposing tribes being frustrated in their attempt to elope, jumped into the flooded river to evade going back to their separate tribes and thus were united in death. The river was named Wapsi for the boy and Pinicon for the maiden.

The Little Wapsi is a tributary of the Big Wapsi entering at Littleton and is about equal in size to Otter Creek which flows into the Big Wapsi at Otterville from a Northeasterly direction.

The Buffalo is another large creek in the eastern part of the county. It flows from north to south and slightly east. It is named for the buffalo that roamed the prairies.

Pine, a small creek that enters the Wapsi above Quasqueton, is named for the white pines that grew along its banks.

Bear Creek was so named because the last bear killed in Buchanan County was killed on its banks.

Lime Creek was named for its lime banks. These last two flow into the Cedar River. The Rock Island Railroad follows the divide between the two large rivers.

Chicago, Anamosa, and Northern Railroad

The Chicago, Anamosa, and Northern Railroad found difficulty getting across Buchanan County. Its aim was to go by way of Quasqueton and Independence to Waterloo and as far north as Bismark, North Dakota. It was twenty-eight years getting as far as Quasqueton and although the grade was built as far as Dunkerton the rails were only laid as far as Quasqueton where a roundhouse was located. Some books say that as many as sixty miles of grade was built. Six years later the tracks were all taken up and sold to France. Much of the road grade is still visible today and the big cuts east of Quasqueton will show for a long time. The bridge across the Buffalo east of Kiene is still there.

KIENE

Kiene was a town built on the strength of the coming railroad as a whistle stop. The railroad came as far as Quasqueton in 1912 and established a roundhouse, but try as all interested parties would, they could not swing the vote to take it any farther. The element against it proved the stronger and although a roadbed was graded as far as Litleton and on toward Dunkerton, the track never extended beyond Quasqueton. Kiene was built on the township line between Middlefield and Newton and named in honor of the Kiene brothers who promoted the railroad which was to run from Chicago to Waterloo. A Mr. Wilder built an elevator, Fred Dunkle had a lumber yard and a house. There was a depot and a cafe, hardware, and an implement business. The farmers built a stockyard across the road from Dunkle's house. On July 4, 1912, Kiene held a celebration with a picnic dinner and sports. In 1914 the Congregational Church was moved from the George Saur farm to Kiene. Otto Tielebein gave the land for the railroad and townsite. The Moore and Dunlap cuts were big items of interest being twenty-two feet deep. Large crowds gathered to watch the process. In 1915 or 1916 the rails were taken up and sold to a buyer from Kansas who in turn sold them to France during World War I. There, perhaps, they helped us win the war or bring aid to our soldiers later. Kiene has disappeared to the point that only the church remains.

MONTI

Monti started as a center for St. Patric's Church and Parish House. A cemetery was added and a few dwellings. A large rural school consolidating the entire township followed. Monti is as near to being a town as anything Newton Township has.

BUCHANAN

The village of Buchanan was better known as Mudville for obvious reasons to those familiar with the conditions of the soil, especially in the spring of the year. It was platted by Abiather Richardson and filed September 15, 1857 at 2 P. M. at the Recorder's Office in Buchanan County.

The village was laid out using the S. E. corner of section 24, twp. 90, range 8, Buffalo Township as a point of beginning, and most of it was in this section. Just to the east, in Madison Township there were eight lots sixty-six feet wide, a church lot 132 x 146 feet on which a church was never built, and a cemetery lot of the same size just south of the church lot. These eight lots were vacated in 1881. Because of poor drainage the cemetery was soon discontinued and moved to what is now known as Madison Cemetery. Lots in the new cemetery were deeded to those who helped move the bodies. It is interesting to note one grave was never found and years later while plowing corn, after a rain, a depression about the size and shape of a grave appeared.

At first the village did a flourishing business, there being a town hall, a church, a windmill grist mill, a steam grist mill, two drygoods and grocery stores, two blacksmith shops, a wagon shop, a physician, a postmaster, and J. W. Russell made brooms, just to keep the town clean. The first store was kept by Joseph Abbott and later by J. M. Price. The first blacksmith was Calib Fairchild, the second G. D. Russell. Abiather Richardson was the first postmaster.

The advent of the railroad in 1887 spelled the beginning of the end of the village and soon the buildings were being moved about two miles north to the present site of Aurora. Among these buildings were the two blacksmith shops, the town hall which was used as the Aurora Schoolhouse, the wind grist mill, and the present Aurora Baptist Church. Of the several houses moved Mr. and Mrs. Charles Gould's was the first and their daughter, Rose Haywood, who was a child at the time, remembers they spent two nights on the road. This was the first house in the new town.

The buildings that remained gradually deteriorated and eventually were torn down until now nothing remains but the foundation of Price's store and Trotter's well.

MEFFERTS SORGHUM MILL

PAYNE CEMETERY

PINE

STAGE COACH STOP

CUTSHALL BRIDGE ACCESS AREA

One of our more recent improvements in the county is the re-routing of the road across the Wapsi west of Littleton. The fine new bridge and wide highway which has a hard surface now gives a new route to Fairbank from Littleton and Waterloo and is a boom to the people in the immediate neighborhood. A new park and campsite is situated on both sides of the new highway. North on this road is the old Luthern cemetery and the former site of a Luthern Church. Many German pioneers rest here. This country is known as the Forks (of the two Wapsis).

Newton township's first settlement came in the extreme south edge near two large springs named for the two families, Austin and Walton. A post office, Atlanta, was located here from 1855 to 1873 when it was moved to the center of the township and called Newtonville. In 1900 this post office was discontinued and rural routes established. There is also a cemetery located near the old atlanta post office site.

Because of the heavy timber, Newton township had more wild animals than other parts of Buchanan County. Deer, bears, lynxes, wild cats, and turkeys were all on the hunted list. The first school in the township was located at the springs or near Atlanta. Hoover cemetery and the Wesleyan Methodist Church make up still another community.

Newton Township was settled by strong reeling Irish clans along the Buffalo in some of Buchanan County's spectacular scenery. The pioneer post office of Erin was located in this vicinity. It was established in 1855 and discontinued in 1863.

Newtonville, at one time, comprised a store, church, a blacksmith shop, a post office, a school, a creamery, and a set of farm buildings. Only the school remains.

Winthrop is a town established by the ICC Railroad. It is said to be the birthplace of our late dr. B. B. Sells (on a farm). The Freemont and Whitney Cemeteries are on the road north as we head for the "Meffert Sorghum Mill." This is the only Yankee operated sorghum mill left in the county. It has been in the Meffert family for years. The Mrs. Schweitzer presently on the farm was a Meffert.

MADISON TOWNSHIP

The Madison Township watershed was the first one that the United States Soil Conservation office of Buchanan County worked on. Several small and private ones had been done throughout the County, but this was the group of some thirteen farmers working together as a team to hire the necessary earth moving equipment. The main drainage ditch was two miles long. There were two side branches one-half mile long, and the other was three-quarters of a mile long. This was completed in 1952 and was one of the biggest projects of its kind at the time. This watershed is located north-west of Lamont along the Maquoketa River and its tributaries.

Lamont is located on the Maquoketa Rivers and Chicago Great Western Railroad. It is a town sufficient in itself. It began as a small village, platted from ground deeded by Seymour Whitney, who was Madison Township's first settler. Whitney came in the fall of 1852. His son, Hiram, was the first white child born in Madison Township. Seymour Whitney was the township's first clerk. He moved to Missouri in 1867.

The first postoffice was known as Erie and was established in 1875. Mr. Ward was appointed postmaster and changed the name to Ward's Corners in honor of him. In 1883 G. M. Foster became postmaster and changed the name to Lamont. The coming of the railroad through this town insured the growth of it and brought it prosperity. Lamont no longer gets its by railroad but is on a star route. During its stagecoach era there was a stage road through here that has been discontinued but can be faintly discerned where it cut through the Kenney and Mervin Hall farm on its way to Strawberry Point. Lamont has erected a monument to her Civil War heroes.

At one time Lamont had water power and a mill on the banks of the Maquoketa. It would be interesting to know what the Indian word Maquoketa means. Madison Township has no spectacular history but has maintained a steady life.

She has three cemeteries. The first one was established in 1857 near Buffalo Grove in the southwest corner of the township. The second was at Ward's Corners in 1858, and a third in the northeast part of the township. There is a large rock quarry located here.

Aurora is the town that absorbed Mudville, Buchanan, or Buffalo Grove. Aurora was a whistle stop established on the Chicago Great Western Railroad. People seeing an advantage to living on a railroad picked up their homes and moved. Even the cemetery was moved. Today Aurora has combined her school district with Winthrop and Quasqueton to form the East Buchanan School District.

We should not leave this region without mentioning the Covey Murder Mystery that was enacted somewhere along the Buffalo near the township line--possibly in Byron. This was a murder everyone knew had been committed and by whom but due to the absence of the Corpus Delicti no utter proof that there was a corpse was to be had. Much time and work went into searching for the body but availed nothing. The killer went free, the case being dismissed; not because he was believed to be guilty and must not be acquitted for lack of evidence lest the body be found in the future and the law could not try him again for the same charge. With the grading of the road through this country a part of a skeleton was found bringing to mind this old case so long ago dismissed as unsolvable. The guilty man became a hopeless alcoholic and died in Sioux City.

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH AND SCHOOLS

St. John's Church was built in 1856. It was a small frame building near the Court House. The members could be counted on the ends of your fingers. Father Slattery was the first resident pastor. In 1863, under Father Goskar, the small brick building was started. Attached to it was a convent under the auspices of the Sisters of Mercy who purchased it in 1869. The school burned in 1923 and was replaced in 1926; it was added to in 1954 and a new structure opened in 1962. The sisters purchased the east half of the block where the school now stands and later were able to purchase the residence of Richard Campbell on the west half. St. John's is one of Independence's more luxuriant churches today and has absorbed St. Joseph's Church. There are two other Catholic parochial schools in the county--one at Fairbank and one at Jesup.

LEAVING INDEPENDENCE

Coming north out of Independence we pass the fairgrounds, the home of the county fair since 1891 when the ground was purchased from Thomas Scarcliffe, by the Buchanan County Agriculture Society. A number of fairs had been held by businessmen at the site of the present Rush Park, but they had not been remunerative enough and had given way to horse racing instead.

In 1897 this new group of farmers and businessmen had a very successful fair, attracting a record crowd by offering for entertainment Doctor Carver, champion rifle and wing shot of the world and the High Diving Horbice. They dived off a forty foot high platform into a twenty foot deep pool. In 1904 they presented Carrie Nation with her views on temperance. This drew 7000 people. Many of them bought her famous hatchet. In 1912 they gave away an automobile to the holder of the lucky ticket. In 1911 they featured diving elk. Many stories, good and bad, can be told on the Independence Fair. It is still a big attraction today, but is different than the early fairs, having changed with the times.

The next landmark is Kirkville, a trailer court and resort. Mr. and Mrs. Kirkendall purchased this place for a home. Their's is only the second or third name on the abstract. The fine fishing and cabin locations prompted them to turn it into a summer resort. About ten years ago they began to make room for permanent trailer houses and thus became the first trailer court to be established in Independence. There is now space for thirty-one trailers and still room for expansion.

St. John's Cemetery is next in line. It is one of our best kept in the county.

A sawmill has recently been set up between the cemetery and the river.

There is a new bridge, grade, and parking area at Harter Creek. The farm back off the road on the creek bank to our right is the home of our county agent, Jay Partridge.

Honolulu: The rendering works has been in the Hohl family for forty-five years. It is a well established landmark and has been one of Buchanan County's sources of employment. It went out of business in February, 1960.

Turning west at the end of the road, we come to the Morse Farm. At one time this farm was the wintering quarters of circus animals of various circuses managed by P. A. Older, a resident of Independence and one of the greatest circus men of all times. Several of the original buildings still stand, including the barn, which does not look like an ordinary barn on an average farm, and the house which still has the solid walnut open staircase and the original front room chandelier. This was a well kept home and was considered a showplace. Fire destroyed some of the buildings.

OTTERVILLE

This village was in the olden days a promising town. A dam across the creek northeast of the store furnished power for a sawmill and a grist mill. Otterville at one time boasted a creamery, a wagon shop, a blacksmith shop, a hotel two churches and parsonages, a store, and two schools. An annual fair was an annual event in the community. Many of the dwellings were sold off during the depression years to eliminate taxes, and salvage the investment. It got its name from the creek passing through it, which in turn was named for the otters found in it in pioneer days.

BORDNER'S BOULIVARD

West of Otterville is a road grade that today is an ordinary road, but was in its time a much disputed improvement. This road running alongside of the bayous of the Big Wapsi had a tendency to overflow each year and wash out much of the roadbed. This meant constant repair work. When R. L. Bordner was elected as county supervisor he used his influence to build a high grade across here. The idea met with much opposition and ridicule as it was a big investment that some were sure would be lost with the first rain. It was scathingly referred to as "Bordner's Boulevard." It has stubbornly resisted the elements with only minor repairs occasionally. The pattern is commonly used today on other problem roads.

The Illinois Central Depot and tracks are self explanatory. The Wapsi Valley Creamery got its start about forty years ago when Carmichael put up a new cheese factory that only lasted a few years. Wapsi Valley took it over first as a creamery and then as a cheese factory. Their butter is made in Cedar Rapids.

The old Mel Webster Seedhouse was a big concern that employed several people. Fire destroyed the building and Mr. Webster moved the seed house to Kings Hall.

CIVIL WAR

Iowa's greatest history was made during the Civil War. She never had to resort to forced draft. When Lincoln called for troops always enough volunteered to fill the number. Sometimes they were offered bounties but they were always volunteers. Our men were courageous fighters and soon developed the reputation of being top-notch troops. When you consider that only courageous men with strong hearts would tear up roots of home and volunteer to conquer an untamed wilderness it is not strange that we had extra good soldiers. Having gleaned the Cream of the Crop from the East, we should have been able to produce better soldiers and certainly they were in fine practice to conquer and were physically hardened from real work. They were used to primitive living so endured the hardships better. Of all the things written of Buchanan County History the Civil War Period of stories is the most glowing of all, as it not only tells of the things our men did but of the many wonderful things our home front did.

FONTANA PARK

Fontana, though always privately owned as a farm and mill, has nearly always been considered as a Hazleton Park. The mill pond offered good fishing facilities and the west bank a good place for large groups to picnic. I have heard my mother tell of picnics and outings there when she was a small girl and attended several myself during my highschool days nearly forty years ago. The location had it's beginning as a ford of Otter Creek probably first used by the Indians and wild animals. When the white man came he cut down the trees and used them to build a dam, to furnish power for first a sawmill, then a grist mill, and then a flouring mill.

Fontana reached it's height of popularity as a pleasure park during Adam Kiefer's ownership when two enterprising young men, Clyde Allen and Emil Plembing built a "Shoot the Chutes" to add to their water fun. This might be described as a sort of roller coaster ten or twelve feet above the ground at the high end, with 100 feet of track leading down into the water deep enough to float a boat. The boat was mounted on a four wheel cart and drawn to the top of the chute by means of a gas engine. The boat would accommodate four people at a time. They were given a start and would gain enough momentum on their descent so that when they hit the water the boat would float off the wheels and out almost across the pond. To the riders this was great sport and offered competition as to whom could travel the farthest. When high water destroyed the dam the people missed the mill pond and it's resources. Several times it was restored by private interests, but the last time the Lion's Club sponsored a drive and assisted the conservation board in making a public park of it. It promises to be a huge success. The park received it's name Fontana during Adam Kiefer's ownership and was named by Mart Coy and Kyle Kiefer. No one seems to know what prompted the title.

HAZLETON

Hazleton, formerly known as Greeley's Grove was not always located at it's present site. It was once located a mile east at the intersection. It is referred to today as Old Hazleton. Old Hazleton had a post office, a couple of stores and a few dwellings. The building of the railroad from Independence to Oelwein was the deciding factor in changing the location of the town. The buildings were moved to the flag station and only the cellar holes remain. Hazleton prospered for a time. Having three or four groceries, a lumber yard, two restaurants, two banks, a meat market, and slaughter house, a blacksmith and wagon shop, a hotel, an undertaking parlor, three churches, a photographer's shop, a newspaper, a telephone office, two doctors, a drug store, a hardware, a variety store, one department store, an opera house, a grade and high school, a depot, a creamery, and an annual fair. The automobile age added a garage and a variety of filling stations, but the town had a number of tragic events, setting it back. Several times such as bank failures, fires and finally the crash of 1929 closed both banks. Hazleton has a bank today but the business part of Hazleton has suffered since the depression. Cars make it possible for the population to travel to larger towns to buy at the super markets. The high school has moved to Oelwein, the passenger service on the train was discontinued in the 30's, and the depot demolished in the last decade.

People living in Hazleton commute to work in Oelwein, Independence, and Waterloo. Hazleton awaits new inspiration. It is now a place to live, rather than a place to make a living.

INTERESTING PLACES IN HAZLETON

The old creamery--the school--an old undertaking parlor--an old hotel, where legend has it that appendicitis was discovered and a means to combat it learned by Independence's own Dr. Shellito--churches--New Legion Hall--Adam Kiefer's house--T. E. McCrudy's house(banker)--their well kept city park--Hazleton once had a town band they were very proud of. This was reincarnated in their High School band. Hazleton was well known for its band concerts and free movies. It has three cemeteries. The one south of town, the Catholic Cemetery, and one modernistic, the Floral Hills Memorial Gardens north of town.

North-east of Hazleton is the old Covertown location once a small town and post office, but now only a memory. Its cemetery is the only clue to its existence as even the school has been discontinued. The lime quarry is worked for agriculture lime. It covers twenty acres.

South of Hazleton is the present day Go-Cart Track. The dwelling and carriage house on this place were built by Del Barnum believed to be a relative of P. T. Barnum. He built this home that his wife might be near her parents in their declining years. She was a Dowling girl and was raised across from the cemetery.

In the cemetery is a monument to the Civil War dead. The first burial in this cemetery was of a twelve year old, an emigrant, who was with a wagon train camped at the spring in the vicinity. There are many pioneers buried there.

PRAIRIE CENTRE AND PILOT GROVE DISTRICTS

The Wilbert Frye Farm, located between the branches of Pine Creek, is Pilot Grove. The Prairie Centre and Pilot Grove districts were pretty much one community consisting of a Methodist Church, a creamery, a cheese factory, a race track, and a grove of trees that could be seen for miles, cheering the hearts of weary travelers as only well known land marks can. The church stood on the northwest corner of the intersection. It was sold to Newell Davis and is now used as a barn. The outlines of the race track are still visible at certain seasons of the year. A little farther east are the two sites of Castleville, an abandoned post office. There was a Congregational Church at Castleville. There is a private burial ground at the Payne farm.

BRYANTSBURG

Buffalo Creek passed through the old location of Buchanan. This was a favorite dwelling place for Indians, but they left when the white man moved in. A. J. Eddy conducted a ferry with a wagonbox at this crossing before a bridge was built.

The frame house built by A. Richardson in 1851 is still standing and in good repair. It was built of black walnut. It has no modern conveniences.

Buffalo Grove, in Byron Township, is the scene of the famous Covey Murder Mystery.

MCWILLIAMS HOME--Though both the old house and barn have been replaced, still remain the site of Buchanan County's biggest crime. Here a man suffering the early stages of insanity brutally killed his wife and five children with a butcher knife and claw hammer, laid them out on the kitchen floor and then calmly went to spend the night with his father.

FRINKS GROVE--is located three miles north of Brandon. It was settled by John Frink and his three grown up sons, John, Alonzo, and George. Alonzo and George only stayed a short time and moved on. Alonzo went to Minnesota where his wife and children were massacred by the Indians. Alonzo swore eternal vengeance against the Indians and followed a life of a hunter, becoming the dread of the Indians as many fell before his rifle. John Jr. remained on his father's property and conducted a hotel and whiskey shop for many years. This settlement later became known as Shady Grove.

MENTAL HEALTH INSTITUTE--Independence's biggest source of employment since being built in the years between 1868 and 1873. It was the second hospital of its kind built in Iowa. There are four all together. There were many fears that the patients would be undesirable to have in the community at first, but it has proven to be both profitable and without much trouble. It was located here under the influence of W. G. Donnan, a resident of Independence and at that time a State Senator. Recent renovations have brought the institution up to date and in line with the new methods of treating mental illness.

RUSH PARK

ROWLEY

Rowley is a town that came into being when the railroad was laid across country. It is somewhere near half way between Walker and Independence. It was named in honor of one of their men in the company. It is a quiet unassuming town with big fires its biggest history. It has prospered and grown but the decline of the rail transportation and the boom of the automobile has been hard on these smaller towns.

The old Presbyterian Church, the present Masonic Hall is the only building that has survived the Rowley fires. (In the business district.) What was Rowley's school house is now parts of two other buildings. One is the residence across from the cemetery and the other just a shed. Aside from cyclones and fires Rowley's history is rather ordinary and smooth.

Hammerville was the original post office but it gave way to Rowley when the railroad came.

OUR AMISH NEIGHBORS

Buchanan County's Amish colony started in the early 1900's, literally between 1910 and 1915. Eight families, the parents all fairly young left their mother colony and started one of their own. They firmly believed that progress cultivated sin. This colony is one of the stricter ones in the United States. These families were all related, being two sets of brothers and sisters and first cousins to each other. They made up their own bishop and preacher. Their children all being below marrying age, the colony did not expand for some time.

About the time the first of the children reached marriagable age, another group or church began moving in. They had their own Bishop and Preacher. They became known as the South Church while the first ones were referred to as the North Church. Church however was held in the various houses. Each family taking a turn. These people belong to the Mennonite belief but are designated as the Amish Mennonites because they wear beards.

Aside from driving horses and buggies, they stick to the old dress of homemade clothing of a peculiar style. The women fasten their dresses with a continuous row of common pins, coil their long hair at the backs of their heads and they wear white bonnets. The men's clothes, also home-made are of denim. Their hats, broad brimmed black felt however are boughten. Their top coats are denim or corduroy and always fastened with hooks and eyes. Women and girls alike wear only one style of dress. A tight bodice, long sleeves, full skirt, topped with a pin around apron and a v-shaped neckerchief over the bodice. They wear plain colors only but may wear two or three colors at one time.

They are good hearted people, hard workers, good cooks, good farmers, good carpenters, and find their joy in the simple things of life. Sometimes their conflicting religious beliefs cause trouble with some of their yankee neighbors, but mostly they are good people. Their records of conflict with the law is very brief for the number of years they have lived in this county.

This colony made its big expansion during World War II. A colony of these people was located in Kansas on land wanted by the U. S. government for air bases. These people sought new homes amongst their own kind. There are now over a hundred families in this colony comprising five different churches.

The colony in Kansas was of a higher order than this colony. Coming in here called for adjustment. Those who could not conform moved on, seeking their own kind.

One of the most noticeable things about the colony is the style and plainness of their farmsteads, the horses in their pastures, and of course their dress. Most of them own their own homes.

They have two cemeteries in their colony. One is north of the Hazleton-Fairbank road and the other north of Littleton.

The Amish schools of controversy are east of Prairie Grove and one is north as well. They were once public schools of Hazleton Township but were purchased by the Amish when Hazleton became consolidated. The other six Amish schools in the county are still public schools.

PRAIRIE GROVE

Prairie Grove was named for the landmark trees. Its first school house was north of the grove but the present day one is south of it. The creamery and store were north to the corner and west a few rods.

Prairie Grove farm was one of the few farms quarentined during the Hocf and Mouth Disease epidemic.

Dr. F. F. Agnew was born and raised in this community.

Rush Park is synonymous with the history of Independence. The Kite Shaped Race Track, though short lived, was known world wide and was very famous. The financial panic of 1892 and 1893 spelled the end of a wonderful venture and wiped away an enormous fortune. C. W. Williams, the promoter, was not beaten by the reverses but turned to evangelism and was as good in that field as any other. The Rush Park Era was one of the brightest spots of Buchanan County history. Its brevity made it dearer in the minds of the people.

Blooms manufacturing plant is an old and well established industry in Independence.

Crabb's Gas Engine Factory is another old industry.

Corn Blossom, a new name on an old factory. When Wackerbarth owned it, it was a sweet corn canning company, running only when the sweet corn was in season. Corn Blossom cans chicken and dresses out other poultry. It is now a year around industry.

The Colonial Motel of today has a history of being a stage coach stop. It was originally owned by a man named Cobb. This man followed various trades including farming and stock buying, as well as the hotel business. It changed to a tourist park during the early automobile years, but is now a modern motel.

CONO TOWNSHIP

Cono Township was named for a Winnebago Indian chief who loved to hunt and fish along the Wapsi. He was a friendly Indian and had many friends among the white settlers. This township has no spectacular history, no town, no cemetery. It had a post office from 1849 until Rowley was established. There is a church located at the crossroads at the exact center of the township. This place is called Cono Center. Farther south on the same road is a Presbyterian church and school with a recent history of much controversy.

BRANDON

Brandon is a town that sprang up in the 1840's and 50's. It is in the Cedar Valley rather than Wapsi Valley and seems set apart. It is on the interurban line, an electric railway that brought electricity early to the townspeople, they being second only to Independence for such service. The Jefferson township schools consolidated in 1911 making theirs the first in the county, followed by Jesup. The last bear to be killed in Buchanan County was in this township. Sunnyside or Frinks Grove was a post office from 1854 to 1861 and was possibly the site of the religious trial that took place in 1859. The story goes that a well meaning evangelist prepared to hold a large revival in a grove of trees early in July and perfected the seating. People came by families and sat as families. Where upon the evangelist asked them to separate, the males on one side and the females on the other. Some thought this to be ridiculous and did not heed. Where upon the evangelist

demanded to be obeyed. Consequently the meeting broke up and the evangelist had the crowd arrested for disturbing the peace. Whereupon the sheriff and deputy had to bring the culprits in not liking the job but adhering to duty. The prisoners sang all the way into Independence and also all the way out again after the case was thrown out of court. There were over fifty people involved as prisoners and witnesses.

The high school age children of Brandon all come to Independence as tuition students.

Idlewilde was a small village north of Shady Grove. It, too had a hotel and post office. There are a few visible signs of other houses around the vicinity of the farmstead, the old hotel being used as a residence. The farm is owned by Olsen of Walnut Dairy.

Vista is east of Idlewilde and is also an old hotel that housed a post office. The church that went with Vista was farther east and only the scars of its foundations are visible. If you turn south at the church corner you pass the Westburg school claimed to be the best equipped rural school in Buchanan County.

THE DIAGONAL

In the early days the diagonal road was known as the Brandon Road. It got its location in a rather odd way. Jefferson Township was being settled as early as 1850 in and around the location of Brandon. This spot is about sixteen miles from Independence. The main source of living came from Marion and Cedar Rapids, not Dubuque. These people, so far isolated from everything, heard that a county seat town was rapidly shaping up at Independence. Curiosity and adventure called to a group of these people to go and see for themselves. It being wintertime and snow on the ground, they took a bob sled and started across the broad expanse of prairie for a spot on the river sixteen miles away. There were no roads and no fences, nor a farm house between. They set their course nearly north-east and arrived at their destination. They looked and visited and rested, then started for home. But darkness befell them and soon they were lost. This meant disaster on the prairie in winter, but they gave the team the reins and one old horse wisely and unerringly made a bee line for home where waited a warm stall and food. They arrived safely. The "bee line" became the main traveled route to and from Brandon to Independence and no amount of trying has ever changed it.

Brandon was the first community to have consolidated schools, and the second to have electric lights--Independence being the first.

Power came to her by way of the electric railroad between Cedar Rapids and Waterloo. This town has been quite independent of other communities being self-sufficient in itself.

MCWILLIAMS HOME--scene of one of Buchanan County's worst tragedies.

SUNNYSIDE--

SHADY GROVE--

VISTA--T. V. tower on highest spot of Buchanan County; the only post office in Westburg township.

JESUP

Jesup was a town started as Barclay in Black Hawk County, but was moved to the whistle stop of J sup on the Illinois Central Railroad after its construction in 1860. It has had hatcheries, a shirt factory, stores, garages and a creamery for industries. It has flowered and gained all its life. It celebrated a centennial in 1960. Jesup's history is uneventful so far as sensational things are concerned, but a clean and normal history is a very good record to have.

Homer township records a story of a Miss Mitchell who in company with her two house dogs went out into the cornfield to chop corn. She was working diligently when the air was rent with unheard of noises. Running in the direction from whence they came she came upon her dogs locked in a death struggle with some ferocious animal. Not waiting for caution but fearing for her dogs she wading in wielding her corn knife in a well placed swing to the skull of the intruder. The animal proved to be an over-sized lynx. The county awarded her \$10 for her prize.

The last bear to be killed in the county was in Jefferson Township in 1859. For a number of years bears had not been seen and then they returned to the point of several being killed in one year, mostly in neighboring townships and counties.

Buchanan County Court House

OPEN HOUSE

May 17, 1963



Photo By "McDonald Studio"

STATE OF IOWA

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

P R O C L A M A T I O N

COUNTY GOVERNMENT WEEK

- WHEREAS, The Iowa State Association of County Officers has set aside the week of May 13-19 for observance of County Government week, and
- WHEREAS, the ninety-nine counties of the State of Iowa operate under the historic concept of home rule, and
- WHEREAS, it is fitting to call public attention to the achievements of county government administered by the various elective and appointive county officials, and
- WHEREAS, county governments are cooperating partners with the state government in administering public affairs,
- NOW, THEREFORE, I, Harold E. Hughes, Governor of the State of Iowa, do hereby proclaim the week of May 13 through May 19, 1963 as

COUNTY GOVERNMENT WEEK

in Iowa and do further encourage the several counties to develop their own observances of this occasion, built around a public invitation to the citizenry to visit their local County Court Houses and other institutions administered by the county, to observe the duties, services and functions of its several departments as part of the state-wide program of "Open Court House" in the ninety-nine counties of our sovereign state.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name and caused the Great Seal of the State of Iowa to be affirmed. Done at Des Moines this 16th day of April in the year of Our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty-Three.

/s/

Harold E. Hughes
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

/s/ Melvin D. Synhorst
SECRETARY OF STATE

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W E L C O M E

To the People of Buchanan County and all Visitors, we are happy to extend our most sincere welcome.

We appreciate your taking time from your busy schedules to visit your Courthouse and better acquaint yourselves with the work being done by your County Officials.

We hope that you have enjoyed your tour, and that in some way it has helped you realize how your tax dollar is being spent and what a great privilege we have in our LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

Thank you for coming.

BUCHANAN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Claude Catt

Richard T. Cone

Carl Peterson

1990798

The Old Buildings on Court House Square.

In the Spring of 1857 the Old Court House was started by Judge O.H.P. Roszell, the County Judge who had control of the County business at that time. The Building was centered on the Court House Square on the East center facing the First Ward Park. The task of completing the construction fell to County Judge Stephen Tabor who was appointed to succeed Roszell.

Judge Tabor reported in his July 1, 1958 report that the cost of the Court House was \$9,758.51. The materials were hauled from Dyersville by ox teams.

In 1869, at the General Election it was proposed to build a jail and in 1870 the jail and the Sheriff's House was constructed at a total cost of \$18,828.00 and it was in the Northeast corner of Court House Square.

In 1880 at the General Election it was voted to build a fire proof building in the Southeast corner of Court House Square to house County offices, which contained the Recorder's Office on the Second floor to the East, the Clerk of the District Court on the same floor to the West and Treasurer's Office below the Recorder, the Auditor below the Clerk of the District Court and the Supervisor's room between the Auditor and Treasurer's Office. That building apparently cost \$7,500.00

The three buildings remained in use thru the building of the new Court House which was started in the Fall of 1938 by the Board of Supervisors. They were: Wilbert H. Frye, Sr., George F. Slemmons, and Wm M. Armstrong. The Construction Company was Larsen & Sons of Council Bluffs, who constructed the New Building, Wheatland Plumbing & Heating Company of Wheatland and now of Cedar Rapids, had the plumbing work which bid was \$27,100.00, the Capitol City Electric Company of Des Moines had the Electrical work for a bid of \$5,344.00, the Montgomery Elevator Company of Moline, Illinois had that work for \$5,761.00 and the jail equipment material and supplies by Fries Company of Kentucky for \$7,172.00 The landscaping work was by Sherman Nurseries of Charles City for \$450.00.

The total estimated cost of the New Building was a little over \$254,000.00 including the sidewalks, drives, etc. The Federal Government paid all but \$111,000.00 which the County financed by selling bonds which were all redeemed in ten years. The average taxpayer paid towards the New Building approximately \$14.00 over the ten years. It is true the richer the taxpayer was the more he or she paid, likewise those that had little or no property paid little on the tax bill.

The Clerk of Court had the first business in the new Building. A couple came from Chicago to get a marriage license and approached the Clerk in the old building a few days before Easter 1940 and asked that he carry the book over to his new office that was still unfinished and cold. The Clerk did so, preparing the needed papers for the couple.

There are six persons in the New Building that worked in the old buildings and moved into the new building in April and May 1940. They are:

Treasurer-Mrs. Evelyn Miller

Deputy Treasurer-Mrs. Mabel Scott

Office of Welfare Department-Hazel Simmons

Director of Relief-Robert C. Elderton

Clerk in Selective Service-Burr K. McFarlan

Clerk of District Court-Arlee G. W. Blank

(since November, 1930)

COUNTY AUDITOR'S OFFICE

County Auditor's Office located at the South end of Courthouse on the Main Floor. County Auditor Helen McCulloch most recently elected to a four year term which began January 1, 1961.

Deputy Auditor Mary Klein and Clerk Marianne Orr complete the personnel.

The duties are many and varied. The Auditor is Clerk of the Board of Supervisors. Must keep a permanent record of proceedings and have them published in the Official Newspapers. Warrants are written for all claims approved by Supervisors and a record of expenditures kept by funds and departments. A copy of each warrant is filed in an alphabetical file. Payrolls for most county employees are prepared and payment made the last day of the month. Secondary road employees are paid upon approval of payroll by Supervisors at regular session, first Monday of the month. A detailed record of salary less deductions for Income Tax, Federal Social Security, State I.P.E.R.S. and insurance is kept and statements issued the 1st of each year.

All reports of County Officers and bonds except for Auditor, Supervisors and Justices of Peace are filed here.

Beer and Cigarette permits for establishments outside city limits, approved by the Supervisors are issued and signed by the Auditor.

The largest part of our year is spent in figuring taxes. Taxes are figured on the valuations of January 1st one year, due the following year. A report of all property on which Ag. Land Credit is to be applied is filed with the State Comptroller by June 1st each year. A report of valuations, called Abstract of Assessment, breaking real property by Agricultural, Residential, Mercantile or Industrial divisions and Personal property as assessed, cattle, mdse, etc. by township and towns is filed with Tax Commission before 1st Monday in July. Homestead credits and Military Exemptions, signed for with the Assessor, are filed and exemptions and credits applied to individual properties. Reports of each individual application are prepared in triplicate, one copy certified to State Tax Commission, one to the County Treasurer and one in Auditor's file. During July and early August the budgets for the County, Schools, Municipalities and townships are filed. The State Tax Commission certifies State Levies.

The property of Utilities is assessed each year by Tax Commission and certified to the Auditor. When the Tax Commission has approved valuations as certified for County properties, the valuations are compiled by school districts. Military exemptions deducted and levies figured for each budget. The levies affecting each district are added together and a total levy determined, which is multiplied by each property owner's valuation, then, if he is entitled to Homestead or Ag. Land Credit, this is deducted and his net tax determined and certified to County Treasurer for collection. An apportionment of taxes by individual funds is made for each township and town, and a report of all tax funds is prepared for the State Tax Commission.

A record of Institutional Liens is kept and all payments for Institutional care are made to the Auditor.

Records of transfer of property by Deed or Change of Title are kept for taxing purposes and plats of property owners kept. Each property description and owner is listed on a plate made on our graphotype machine and changed with each transfer.

The "Fine" money collected by Justices of the Peace and District Court is apportioned semi-annually to each school district in the County on the basis of school census, determined every two years and including all between the ages of 5 and 21 years.

Money for school libraries is apportioned on the same basis.

The Auditor is clerk of tax sale, and all property is redeemed at the Auditor's Office. A penalty of 4% is added plus 6% interest per annum.

The Auditor prepares and publishes a financial report of the County at the end of each year.

The Auditor has charge of printing ballots for all elections except Municipal and School. It is his duty to notify members of elections boards and secure supplies. All nomination papers for County and Township officials are filed here. Absentee ballots are mailed from the Auditor office. The Auditor must remain on duty on election day until all returns are in. Returns of National and State Officials are certified to Secretary of State.

Dog licenses are issued by the Auditor and a record of each registration kept.

TREASURER'S OFFICE

PLACE: Southwest Corner of the Court House

PERSONNEL: Evelyn Miller, County Treasurer
Mabel Scott, Deputy
Celia Hahn, Auto Deputy
Nedra Eggers, Clerk
Ann Buelow, Clerk

DUTIES OF THE COUNTY TREASURER

AUTO DEPARTMENT: The months of December and January are very heavy months in this department, since cars registered in one county cannot be registered in another until records have been transferred. Prior to December 1st all registration certificates are typed and proof-read. All motor vehicles must be licensed and an up-to-date file is kept of same both numerically and alphabetically. Titles are issued on all new, out-of-state and used cars sold. The average is 300 per month. All liens must be noted on Titles and Titles delivered to the lienholder. The County retains 50¢ for each license sold, 40¢ per Title, and 65¢ for each lien noted. Total for 1962 was \$5,530 on registrations, \$1650 on Titles and \$910 on liens.

We collect use tax on all new vehicles subject to same, and file monthly reports with the Treasurer of State with check to cover the collections.

All vehicle owners are notified the amount of their car license fee before December 1st.

The work of this department is under the supervision of the State Department of Public Safety.

TAX DEPARTMENT: We collect all taxes as certified by the County Auditor. All tax receipts are copied from the books as certified by the Auditor and total taxes to collect must agree with the Auditor's figures. Special assessments certified by Cities and Towns for collection are noted on Tax Lists and Tax Receipts. State-ments are furnished upon request. A statement must be sent on all delinquent taxes before November 1st of each year. All unpaid tax must be published before December 1st. The real estate is advertised and a Tax Sale is held the first Monday of December for all unpaid real estate tax. Tax sale certificates are furnished the buyer of each parcel sold and a Tax Sale Record kept of the transaction. If not redeemed by owner, in due time, Treasurer must issue Tax Sale Deed. After December 31st, all unpaid personal is transferred to the Delinquent personal register, all unpaid real estate carried forward to current tax books and suspended tax to Suspended Tax Register.

Monthly all warrants issued by the County Auditor must be checked and held for any delinquent personal tax due.

Three times a year the County Treasurer sends checks to all Schools, Towns, and Townships to cover taxes collected to date.

Monthly reports and semi-annual reports are made of all money received and paid out and filed with County Auditor.

All fine money collected by J.P.'s in the County and Clerk's Office turned in and apportioned back on a per pupil basis to the schools.

All bounty claims made by the Auditor must clear through the Treasurer's Office.

COUNTY RECORDER OFFICE

Sometimes called "Keeper of Deeds", "Custodian of Records", "Registrar," "Register of Deeds", and many other similar names.

The Recorder is responsible for all records filed or recorded in the office. If one is needed in Court where a copy is not sufficient then the Recorder must appear with the record. Records are public, but are not to leave the office unless accompanied by the Recorder or Deputy. Records can not be left as an exhibit of the Court.

Duties unknown to most citizens are that the Recorder, with the County Auditor and Clerk of District Court, draw jurors for terms of Court. The same three are responsible for appointing Supervisors to fill any vacancies between elections, due to resignations or death.

Each Recorder is responsible for their own office. Appointment of Deputies and Clerks are his duties, also the setting of the duties of each one in the office. The Deputy Recorder can perform all duties for the Recorder in ease of his absence.

Many different instruments can be filed for record - as high as 8,000 per year at times. Instruments are to be filed or recorded exactly as they come in. No alteration can be made even if certain it is in error. We may show it as an error by underlining.

Record books cost from \$125.00 to \$250.00 per book. Several are filled each year.

The Recorder collects for the Auditor, Transfer Fees for each parcel of land. Homestead exemptions and military exemptions are not valid unless confirmed in the Recorder's Office.

The Recorder's Office is most important for abstractors, so they may trace each parcel of land for correct title. Abstracts start with the original entries.

Certified copies of instruments may be obtained from the Recorder.

The Recorder is an elected County Official, now elected for a four year term.

Fees are now uniform throughout the State of Iowa.

The following are found in the Recorder's Office:

- | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Deeds | 9. Plats | 17. Bills of Sale |
| 2. Mortgages | 10. Power of Attorney | 18. Concealed Weapons |
| 3. Real Estate Contracts | 11. Easements | 19. Drainage Agreements |
| 4. Conditional Sales | 12. Affidavits | 20. Access to Highways |
| 5. Chattels | 13. Veterans Discharges | 21. Fence Agreements |
| 6. Articles of Incorporation | 14. Federal & State Liens | 22. Farm Names |
| 7. Leases | 15. Trade Names | 23. Brands |
| 8. Assignments-Releases | 16. Social Security Numbers | 24. M.D. & Surgeons Certificates. |

All Hunting & Fishing Licenses sold in County

Recorder-Leslie D. Fry

Deputy Recorder-Beverly Nelson

Clerk-Jeanne Shannon

OFFICE OF CLERK OF THE DISTRICT COURT

WHAT IS FILED IN THIS OFFICE:

BIRTH RECORDS, since July 1, 1880. During the years 1896 to 1917 the births were picked up by the Assessor during the months January thru April of each year and then deposited in the Clerk's Office. During the years 1918 to June 1, 1941 the original certificates were sent to the Division of Vital Statistics at Des Moines and have much more data on them than we do in the books in the office. From June 1, 1941 to the present date all of the data on each certificate is copied in our records before sending the original certificate to Des Moines.

DEATH RECORDS, since July 1, 1880

MARRIAGE RECORDS, since June 25, 1848. If a marriage license is wanted, first the couples about to be married must get their blood test, then when the return is back, bring that to the Clerk of the District Court in the County they are to be married in. They must bring with them one witness who is of age - so all three can sign the Application for Marriage. The day they sign the Application does not count as one of the three day waiting period. (Example, if a couple and their witness comes in on Monday, they must wait Tues, Wed. and then on Thursday may come back for their license). Both the bride and groom do not have to come back for the license, either one of them with the same witness that signed the Application may pick up the license. They can then be married at any time, but before 19 days as the license expires at the end of 19 days.

DIVORCE RECORDS

ADOPTION PROCEEDINGS, All Adoptions are absolutely confidential and all papers are sealed upon the signing of the decree and can only be opened on a court order.

PROBATE - Estates, Guardianships, Trusteeships - since 1851

DISTRICT COURT, Law and Equity cases - since 1849

CRIMINAL AND JUVENILE CASES

TRANSCRIPT OF JUDGMENTS FROM JUSTICE OF PEACE COURT

MECHANIC'S LIENS

MENTAL HEALTH HEARINGS ARE HELD IN THIS OFFICE. Commissioners are: Doctor - Nelson L. Hersey, Attorney - Carl A. Greif and Clerk of District Court.

IOWA CITY MEDICAL CASES, that start in the office of the director of Relief are then brought to this office for the papers to be made out and sent in to Iowa City.

ALIMONY OR CHILD SUPPORT from Divorce cases is paid thru office.

THE CHANGE OF TITLE ON REAL ESTATE IS ISSUED TO THE AUDITOR when Estates are closed and the title is be vested in another person.

WE MAKE CERTIFIED COPIES OF ALL RECORDS FOR PERSONS THAT ARE IN NEED OF THEM, such as births, deaths, marriages, divorce decrees, wills, appointment of executors or administrators in estates, etc.

WILLS MAY BE LEFT ON DEPOSIT IN THIS OFFICE BY ANY PERSON AT NO COST.

TRANSCRIPTS OF ESTATES ARE MADE to be sent to other Counties if there was real estate in that County.

EXECUTIONS are issued from this office.

COMMISSIONS TO INHERITANCE TAX APPRAISERS

WE HAVE TYPED RECORD BOOKS IN PROBATE AND DISTRICT COURT where each order, motion, decree, transcript, etc. is copied in District Court. In Probate, record is written on opening of an estate, admitting the will (if there is one) to probate, who the witnesses were, orders, inventories, etc.

IN DISTRICT COURT cases where the defendant has an attorney, each paper that his attorney files a copy is forwarded to the plaintiffs attorney and a copy of each paper the plaintiffs attorney files is forwarded to the defendants attorney.

COURT TERMS (4 each year) FEBRUARY, APRIL, SEPTEMBER AND NOVEMBER.

Petit Jurors are drawn for each Term. They are drawn by the Jury Commission which is the AUDITOR, RECORDER AND CLERK. They may be drawn 28 days and not less than 21 days before each Term.

1 Grand Jury panel is drawn each year in January.

BUCHANAN COUNTY is in the 10th JUDICIAL DISTRICT, which is made up of Black Hawk, Buchanan, Delaware and Grundy. Four JUDGES take care of these counties.

They are: Hon. George C. Heath, Waterloo, Iowa
 Hon. Blair C. Wood, Waterloo, Iowa
 Hon. Peter Van Metre, Waterloo, Iowa
 Hon. Carroll E. Engelkes, Grundy Center, Iowa

Each Judge has his own Court Reporter, who are:

Roy H. Jensen, Waterloo, Iowa
 K.J. Kurtenbach, Waterloo, Iowa
 Dwight Van Wyngarden, Waterloo, Iowa
 Marvin Meinert, Grundy Center, Iowa

Our regular Court or Order Day is every Thursday morning when one of the judges is present from 9:30 A.M. to 12:00 Noon. During the first few weeks of each Term is the active trial period and any cases that are ready to be tried are set down at that time to certain days for trial.

At the end of each three months, or four times a year, we send a report to our Judicial Statistician reporting on how many cases in Probate, District Court, Juvenile and Criminal were opened, how many closes, if they went to trial, how old at closing etc., then how many pending at the end of the quarter and their age.

Our Office hours are 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. Monday thru Friday.

You are welcome to come into our office at any time.

ARLEE G. W. BLANK, Clerk
 BETTY CAMERON, Deputy
 DONNA HANSON, Typist

BUCHANAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

The Sheriff's Office is the law enforcement agency of the County. It consists of the Sheriff, Deputy and Clerk.

The duties of this office are many and varied. The list includes serving civil papers, including notices, executions, orders, subpoenas and the like; keeping in file, a copy of each county resident's drivers license, and the issuing of duplicate drivers license in case of a lost or mislaid one; receiving and sending radio messages; keeping a record on each prisoner that is received at the county jail, and when a prisoner is sentenced to any of the state penal institutions, it is the duty of the Sheriff or Deputy to deliver them at designated institution.

This office helps cover accidents, covers suicides, accidental deaths and makes reports on all; helps direct funeral traffic; gives news to reporters so that the public may be informed; checks our records on individuals that are applying for jobs and for all armed service entrants; and delivers the mentally ill to the Mental Health Institute when called upon to do so.

Perhaps the most important aspect is covering the criminal part such as the serving of warrants, covering breakins, thefts, and the investigations of these. Being a counselor in case of family trouble and helping juveniles who are in trouble is another important phase.

Often the Sheriff and Deputy are called upon to be a parole officer. This involves receiving reports and keeping in touch with the parolee until the expiration of the parole.

The Sheriff and Deputy are on call 24 hours a day, and with the cooperation of the police departments of the county's towns, the highway patrol and the special deputies, gives to the County Residents, protection and efficient law enforcement.

Personnel:

Sheriff-Emery A. Hart

Deputy- Carl W. Kress

Clerk- Eva K. Anderson

SELECTIVE SERVICE OFFICE

The Selective Service System Local Board has been housed in the Buchanan County Court House since the beginning of WW II and has enjoyed a happy co-operative association with all offices in the Court House.

All young men are required to register with the Local Board on or within 5 days after their 18th birthdate. They are not classified until they are 19 years of age, and at present the induction age is age 22 to 23 years.

The Local Board Office is open 38 hours per week except when the Clerk is off duty. Hours are:

Monday-8:00-12:00 & 1:00-4:30

Tuesday- 8:00 -12:00 & 1:00-4:30

Wednesday-8:00 -12:00 & 1:00-4:30

Thursday-8:00-12:00 & 1:00-4:00

Friday- 8:00-12:00 & 1:00-4:00

For the past 11 years the Clerk of the Local Board has also been acting as Executive Secretary of the Buchanan County Soldiers Relief Commission, on a part time basis and is available when not on duty as Local Board Clerk.

The Clerk is also Post Service Officer for Sheehan-Tidball Post No. 30, American Legion and as such officer assists veterans and their dependents in filing applications for Hospital treatment, pension claims, etc.

Burr K. McFarland, Sr.
Clerk Local Board.
Executive Secretary, S.R.C.
Post Service Officer, American Legion

BUCHANAN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Buchanan County Historical Society was organized January 11-1960. They met in the Assembly room of the Court House. Purpose to retain and preserve mementoes and historical items pertaining to Buchanan County.

New articles of incorporation were formed and patterned after an organization which was started before World War II. Our Society is listed with the State Historical Society.

A museum was established on the third floor of the Court House. Members and friends have presented the society with items of historical interest. Museum is open to the public two designated Friday afternoons each month from two to four o'clock. Special tours also are conducted.

We have a membership of about 180, with 6 life memberships and 7 memorials.

Present 1963 Officers:

President-	James T. Martin Sr., Independence
Vice-President-	Vine Stoddard, Jesup
Secretary-	Mrs. Ronald Baum, Independence
Treasurer-	Gilbert Stoddard, Jesup

Directors:

Mrs. Will Klotzbach, Independence
Mrs. T.R. Crawford, Jesup
Mrs. Robert Townsend, Independence
Mr. C.H. Jakway, Aurora
Mr. L.R. Campbell, Jesup

COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Board of Education: Chairman- Maynard Pennington
Members- Wilbert Frye
Wesley Cappel
Leo Tonn
Eldon Gillette

County Superintendent-J.J. Jorgensen

Administrative Assistant - Alice E. Higgins

Functions of the Office of County Superintendent

Supervise all Rural Schools

Register all Teachers Certificates

Check All Teachers Approval Statements

Transmit and check all State Reports

Assist the State Department in checking Hot Lunch Programs.

Furnish Psychological Services

Operate Special Classes for the Mentally Retarded. We have three such classes in Buchanan County.

See that all School Laws are enforced.

Conduct reorganization studies and Supervise all re-organization of school Districts.

Conduct Speech Therapy Program.

Conduct Hearing Testing.

County Office Personnel:

Special Education Director-Harry Stover
Speech Therapist-Phil Shattuck
Psychologist-Eugene Kell
Psychologist-Daniel O'Rourke
Psychologist-Henry LeClair
Psychologist-Richard Elliott
Consultant for Mentally Retarded Classes-Robert Gelhart
Teachers: Minnie Fenner
Agnes Neith
Kay Goldenstien

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE

Personnel: Director- Mary M. Gahan
Public Welfare Worker I - Eloise Madison
Secretary-Hazel Simmons

Board of Social Welfare-

Chairman, Mrs. Doris McGrath
Secretary-Mrs. Gladys Farris
Member Carl Peterson

A county Board of Social Welfare of three members, appointed by the County Board of Supervisors, meets monthly to review and discuss all pertinent matters.

Duties of Welfare Office: Charge of Following Financial Assistance Programs

Old Age Assistance
Aid to Blind
Aid to Dependent Children
Aid to Disabled

Child Welfare Services-

Dependent and Neglected Children
Making plans for removing from own home
Complete adoptions, when ordered by State
Department of Social Welfare
Evaluate and recommend license for foster homes.

Nursing Homes-

Evaluate and recommend license for each year
for custodial homes. Review quarterly all
nursing care recipients of public assistance.

Property- Make plans to dispose of any property following
death of old age assistance recipients.

Medical, Dental, Drug, Nursing and Foster Care Payments-

The first of each month, all above listed bills
submitted for any recipients for previous month
must be audited and forwarded to State Depart-
ment of Social Welfare for payment.

Protective Services- Make plans for unmarried mothers.

Miscellaneous- Work in connection with Rehabilitation Division,
Woodward State School, Social Security Office,
referrals to other agencies, when our office can-
not give services necessary.

Supply information from available records for
individuals and other agencies to prove age,
residence, property ownership, etc, in order to
determine if peoples are eligible for Public
Assistance, etc.

BUCHANAN COUNTY RELIEF OFFICE

Functions of the County Relief Office include many problems of a varying nature, and no two cases are alike; neither can they be treated alike.

Many problems include the need of food, fuel, medical, care of children in foster homes, hospital supplementation to Old Age Recipients, cases to the Oakdale Sanatorium, and cases to the University Hospitals, Iowa City, Iowa. There are also many medical cases for those who are not old enough to be eligible for Old Age Assistance.

There are many problems in which the legal angle is involved, and, it is necessary to have a general knowledge of the law to solve these problems; and, at the same time, to protect the interest of Buchanan County, where expense is incurred. Persons who are committed to the Mental Health Institute, Independence, Iowa, are a responsibility of the county of legal settlement; namely, if the individual has lived one (1) continuous year in the county from which he or she has been committed, and, if this is not the case, investigation is made until it has been determined who the responsible county is. This also applies to Woodward State Hospital and Oakdale Cases, but does not apply to hospital cases at University Hospital, Iowa City; this requirement being one (1) continuous year in the State of Iowa, and a RESIDENCE in the county where the applicant has established a domicile.

Every person applying for General Relief is required to make application, giving a complete record of their family, ages, where born, education, income in the home, make of automobile, T.V., hospital insurance, if any, amount of rent to pay, if owner, amount of taxes, date of ownership, amount of purchase, amount of mortgage, amount of payments; driver's license number; social security number-names of relatives and addresses, occupations, church affiliation, references, fraternal organizations, if any; if farming, complete farm record, employment record, bank account, postal savings, and bonds. Many contacts are made with every office in the court house regarding some problem pertaining to the application for general relief. This information is investigated and checked before a final decision is made, either giving relief or denying relief.

The money to pay for General Relief comes from the Poor Fund, which is raised through a Poor Levy, which, in turn, is arrived at from an estimate made by the Director of Relief, as to the amount of money needed for the fiscal year. Due to the fact that this is tax payers' money which is being spent, there is always an effort made, where possible, to recover some of this money from Estates of those who have received relief in the county, and, we might add that there has been several thousand dollars of tax payers' money returned to the Poor Fund, and, there has also been several thousand dollars recovered from Estates of those who have received hospitalization at the University Hospital, Iowa City, Iowa. Collections recovered from University Hospital cases are collected in the full amount-the county acting as an agent for the State, and this money is forwarded to the Comptroller's Office in Des Moines, Iowa, which, in turn, reverts back to the Hospital Fund. Money spent from the Poor Fund and collected from Estates are collected in two (2) ways; namely, a voluntary payment from the individual who received help in the past-the other way, by suit, when the individual refuses to make payment which he or she received when there is money available from the Estate. The eligibility requirements for persons seeking relief, namely-they must have lived in the county for one (1) continuous year.

Personnel: Director of Relief-R.C. Elderton

Assistant-Rosa Lee Campbell

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

The function of the Assessor's Office can be compared to the function of the crew of an ocean liner. It is the job of keeping the good ship County Government on an even keel.

If the keel of the liner is not kept firmly beneath her thru storm and calm, the ship will flounder and if the assessment of property is not similarly kept on an even keel, county and city governments, schools, etc., will flounder too, for the property tax is still the primary source of revenue for all local governmental function.

The performance of this "keel" leveling is based first of all on the Code of Iowa, which tells the Assessor in a general way what property is taxable and what is exempt from taxation. Using the information available in the Code, the personnel of the office must do three things:

1. locate the property.
2. list the property
3. value the property.

This property is all land and buildings in the county and all personal property in the county, excepting any real or personal property which is exempt by law.

Of the three steps set out above, step No. 3 is by far the most difficult, since the law requires that it is the taxpayers duty to see that his property is listed, there is a measure of help for No. 1 and No. 2, although a complicated process is to a large extent mechanical. No. 3 however, is a different matter because when the word value is analyzed fully, it is found to be a very intangible thing in the human mind and hence, although it may be surrounded by the yardsticks of cost, income and selling price, it cannot be pinned down to any exact spot.

The personnel of the Assessor's Office must then try by using the so-called "yardsticks", corner this ever changing, never static thing called value as near to its proper place as possible. This must be done on all classes of real and personal property and to a large extent must be done item by item.

The purpose of the "cornering process" is simply to see that each and every taxpayer pays as nearly as possible his fair share of taxes under the existing tax structure as contained in the Code of Iowa.

Aside from the primary function of property assessment, the Assessor's Office also has allied functions which are less painful to the human race! Homestead exemptions are printed up and signed, as are military exemptions for veterans. Crop and livestock reports on all farm land are compiled and sent to the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

The primary functions mentioned above are simply what the end results of the efforts of the personnel of the Assessor's Office should be. The means that must be used to reach these end results are so many and varied that space does not permit their listing herein.

Enumerated here are some of the general fields which an assessment office must have some knowledge of: public relations, law, engineering, soils, construction, farming, merchandising of every type, manufacturing, etc.

Obviously, if anyone were an expert in any of the above fields, they would probably would not be an Assessor, yet the Assessor's office must by law set values on the property of those who are experts in their respective type of enterprise.

In trying to summarize the above, it should be emphasized that it is not a function of the Assessor's Office to raise taxes. It is the primary function to equalize assessments. Taxes are raised by the actions of those who must pay them. These actions can be of a positive or a negative nature. Budget hearings and elections are provided by law so that each and everyone of us can express his opinion. If we chose to ignore either one of the above, we are still a party to the results because we did not act. Local taxes are state, county, school and city services. - nothing more nor nothing less.

These respective services are supposed to be the wishes of the majority. If our wish has been expressed by studying budgets, issues, etc., we have done our part and should not complain if we are in the minority, and if our wishes have not been expressed by the means available to us such as budget hearings, elections, etc., then we have no right to complain.

The Assessor's Office is set up to serve the people as are all the other offices in the Courthouse. These offices are performing services made necessary by the requests of the people of Buchanan County and the State of Iowa. All offices in the Courthouse welcome the interest and cooperation of the citizens of Buchanan County and I am sure all other offices are like the Assessor's Office, They need this interest and cooperation to function in the best interest of all.

Personnel: Assessor-Lawrence L. Jacobs
 Deputy Assessor-Virginia Sleeper

Extra: Carol Siglin
 Diana King
 Ruth Fitzgerald

COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE

The duty of the County Engineer is primarily the direct and immediate supervision of county road maintenance and construction.

Other functions include recommendations for future road construction programs, road cost accounting and budgeting, preparation of plans for road and bridge work, issuing of certain kinds of permits and many other minor duties. The Engineer is appointed by the Board of Supervisors.

The personnel in the Buchanan County Engineer's Office is as follows:

One Assistant County Engineer whose duty is to aid the County Engineer in performance of his duties.

Two inspectors who work with the County Engineer and Assistant to obtain high quality road and bridge work in agreement with plans and specifications. These men also work in the office during the winter preparing road and bridge plans for the coming year.

Two checkers who are primarily engaged in weighing and checking gravel surfacing, but also assist in other work.

One survey crew of four men who make surveys for future road and bridge construction and also stake construction projects for contractors.

Last, but not least, one office clerk, who does the accounting work, makes the payroll for all road employees, types all legal documents such as contracts, right of way documents, etc., as well as acting as secretary for the Engineer.

Personnel:

County Engineer - G.R. Elliott
Assistant - Walter Osterhaus
Inspector - Edward Zimmer
Inspector - N. Clark Madison
Checker - Norman Dannenbrink
Checker - Oliver Cole
Survey Party Chief - James Kortenkamp
Instrumentman - Carl Junior Ryan
Rodman - Loren Holman
Rodman - Marvin L. Key
Office Clerk - Margaret I. Hayward

BUCHANAN COUNTY AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION DISTRICT

County Agricultural Extension District is a body corporate, a sub-division of the county government. The affairs of the district are managed by a County Agricultural Extension Council, one elected resident member from each township. The main function of the district is to sponsor extension educational programs. The program is sponsored with the cooperation of Iowa State University and the United States Department of Agriculture.

The program is financed by a levy not to exceed one-half mill on the dollar of assessed valuation in the county.

County Extension Program places emphasis in the following fields:

Agricultural Production Management & Natural Resources Development:

Much of the work in these fields is done with the cooperation of the county beef, swine, dairy and sheep producers associations, and also, the Experimental Farm Association. Other work is done with farmers on farmstead, building, and equipment planning. Several agricultural experimental plots have been established on farms in the county.

Marketing and Utilization:

This is an increasingly important area of the extension program since Iowa produces 24% of the pork, 14% of the beef, 8% of the eggs of the nation. While only 2% of the nation's total population live within the state, it is essential that 90% of the production be marketed outside the state.

Home Economics:

This area of work includes the family living or adult homemakers educational programs. Two recent examples would be the tailoring workshops conducted by the extension home economist during the past winter for 54 homemakers. more recently the consumer education series of meetings in fields of home and furnishings, foods, home appliances and clothing.

4-H Club Work and Other Youth Programs:

Over 900 boys and girls in Buchanan County participate in the 4-H club work. The program is conducted with the assistance of 127 volunteer local leaders throughout the county.

Community and Public Affairs Program:

Work is done with other groups and organizations to plan and sponsor educational programs for citizens beyond their home, farm and business which includes tax schools, leadership training, public and international affairs.

Personnel:

County Extension Director-Jay I. Partridge
County Extension Home Economist-Jan Hildebrandt
County Extension Assistant-Dave Kjome
Office Assistant-Mona Gerstenberger

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